



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EARLY MORNING TORNADO DAMAGES BOLIVAR COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AT CLEVELAND

Cleveland – The Bolivar County Correctional Facility (BCCF) received heavy damage early today as a tornado passed through an area west of Cleveland according to security officials at the regional prison. Authorities here report that the storm touched down at approximately 2:10 a.m. and ripped the roof from the prison facility.

“We have been in close contact with Bolivar County officials and we are most fortunate that law enforcement, correctional facility staff and the inmates did not receive any serious injuries from the storm,” said Christopher Epps, Deputy Commissioner of Institutions with the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

The storm’s destructive winds knocked out all power to the prison facility and in the aftermath of the tornado, heavy rain soaked the interior of the prison facility, which houses both state and county prisoners.

The Mississippi State Penitentiary worked immediately in close cooperation with the Bolivar County Sheriff’s Department and quickly transferred 207 state inmates being housed by the county to the Mississippi State Penitentiary where they were assigned to housing units.

Deputy Commissioner Epps said that the storm emergency would not delay the regularly scheduled weekend visitation plans at the state prison.

